COLCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION
Colchester, CT

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION COMMITTEE

September 8, 2021 ~ **5:00 PM**
Virtual Meeting via BoardDocs and Zoom

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Joanne Rose, Amy Domeika, Jessica Morozowich
ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Superintendent Jeffrey Burt
OTHERS PRESENT: BOE Chair Mary Tomasi

1. CALL TO ORDER
   Chair J. Rose called the meeting to order at 5:08PM.

2. *ADDITIONS TO AGENDA
   2.1 Motion to add to Old Business a discussion on communication as standing agenda item 7.2: Communications.
   Motion by: A. Domeika
   To add to Old Business a discussion on communication as standing agenda item 7.2: Communications
   Second by: J. Morozowich
   Vote: Unanimous
   Roll call: A. Domeika, J. Morozowich, J. Rose

   2.2 Motion to add to Old Business as item 7.3: Diversifying Input to the Committee by inviting a Student Representative
   Motion by: A. Domeika
   To add to Old Business as item 7.3: Diversifying Input to the Committee by inviting a Student Representative
   Second by: J. Morozowich
   Vote: Unanimous
   Roll call: A. Domeika, J. Morozowich, J. Rose

3. PUBLIC COMMENT
   None.

4. *APPROVAL OF MINUTES
   4.1 *Approval of Minutes from April 7, 2021 Meeting
   Motion by: A. Domeika
   To discuss the minutes of the April 7, 2021 DEI Committee Meeting
   Second by: J. Morozowich

Vote: Unanimous
Roll call: A. Domeika, J. Morozowich, J. Rose

Motion by: J. Morozowich
To approve the minutes of the April 7, 2021 DEI Committee Meeting
Second by: A. Domeika
Vote: Unanimous
Roll call: A. Domeika, J. Morozowich, J. Rose

5. <u>*PRIORITY DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS</u>

5.1 Committee Update

Superintendent Burt provided an update of the District DEI Committee. The Committee has reviewed the information from NCCJ and is discussing long-range planning. A priority is to sustain this work over time. Superintendent Burt shared that the work of this committee overlaps significantly with the School Climate Committee, so the next step is to merge these two groups together. Board goals, District goals, and the goals of this committee are in alignment. The School Climate Committee will be working with Dr. Hewes, Director of Teaching and Learning, to evaluate the current curricula. J. Morozowich requested more information on the School Climate Committee. Discussion ensued on the scope of the School Climate Committee.

5.2 Review DEI Committee Draft Goals

Chair Rose shared the DEI Committee draft goals. She is proposing that a small group, including Superintendent Burt and Dr. Hewes, consider the indicators again and bring this agenda item back to the full Committee to revisit. Now that BOE goals are established, the goals of this Committee will be further reviewed to remain in alignment with larger BOE goals.

5.3 *Establish DEI Committee Meeting Dates

The Committee discussed establishing future meeting dates. It was proposed to meet monthly or bi-monthly on the second Wednesday of the month at 5:00PM.
Motion by: J. Morozowich
To establish DEI Committee Meetings on the second Wednesday of the month at 5:00PM
Second by: A. Domeika
Vote: Unanimous
Roll call: A. Domeika, J. Morozowich, J. Rose

6. <u>REPORTS</u>

6.1 Training
6.2 Curriculum
6.3 Hiring
No reports at this time.

7. OLD BUSINESS

7.1 Recommendations for Future Training Materials

- J. Rose shared a conversation on "Why and How to Talk to Kids About Microagression," from Embrace Race.
- J. Morozowich shared a book called Mindful of Race: Transforming Racism from the Inside out by Ruth King.
- Superintendent Burt shared that four copies of a blueprint for districts on DEI work has been purchased and will be shared with the Committee.
- A Different Mirror: A History of Multicultural America by Ronald Takaki was shared by Chair Rose.
- African American Connecticut Explored by Garnet Books was also suggested.

7.2 Communications

This will be a standing agenda item for the Committee to discuss how communications will take place.

7.3 Diversifying Input to the Committee by inviting a Student Representative

Discussion ensued about having student voices represented. BOE Chair Tomasi suggested that Public Comment during DEI Committee meetings is an appropriate forum for student input. Broader announcements of DEI meetings was discussed. This discussion will continue next month.

8. NEW BUSINESS

None.

9. ESTABLISH NEXT MEETING PRIORITIES

In addition to goals and indicators, a mission statement for the DEI Committee is also being discussed.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:01PM.